

# Crop livestock integration project (CLiP)

*Improved productivity through crop-livestock interventions in eastern DR Congo and Burundi*



Rain-fed mixed farming systems, in which crops and livestock are integrated at farm-level, predominate in the East and Central African Highlands. These mixed systems provide food, income, draught power and employment to smallholders.

The efficient integration of crops and livestock makes use of crop residues, enhances nutrient cycling, increases overall farm productivity and can greatly improve diet quality – meat, milk and eggs providing valuable protein and micronutrients in household diets.

This project, carried out by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in collaboration with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), with financial support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the European Commission (EC), aims to explore how crop-livestock integrated systems can better contribute to the wealth and nutrition of smallholder farmers in Burundi and DR Congo.

It will directly target 1,600 farming households in the selected field sites, and will involve working with national partners to carry out research for development in the selected areas. It contributes to the CGIAR Humid Tropics Research Program.

## Goal and focus

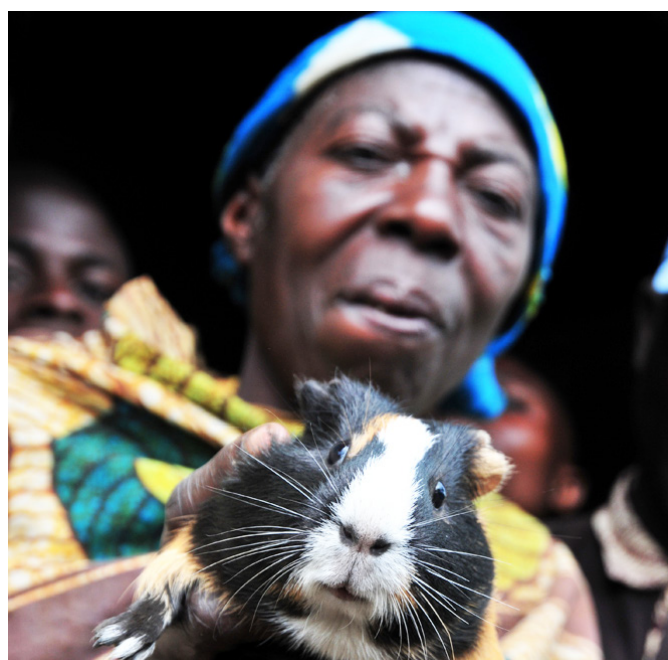
The overall goal of the project is to enable poor rural people to improve their food security and nutrition, raise their incomes and strengthen their resilience.

The project will deliver improved income, nutrition and food security through sustainable intensification of crop-livestock systems, linked to markets, with a particular focus on gender and youth.

The focus is on mixed crop-livestock systems that have a strong potential for increasing food security, increasing household incomes and providing safe and diverse nutritious foods.

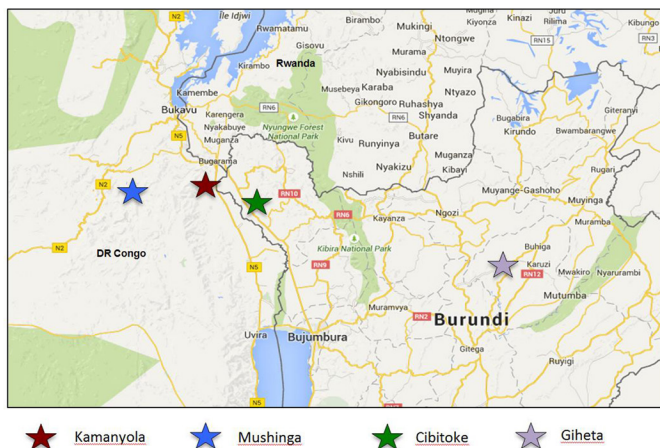
Further, the project will focus on increased farm productivity and natural resource integrity, to increase production at farm level to meet increasing food requirements as a result of population increase.

The project will develop and promote livestock feed resources, by exploiting the wide range of potential animal feed options available.



Linkages to commercial value chains will be addressed by investigating the constraints faced by farmers in accessing markets and identifying options to improve their participation and competitiveness in commercial value chains.

The project will address gender and youth issues by identifying opportunities for women and young people to engage in profitable intensification of crop-livestock systems, to add value to farm produce for sale and to provide inputs and services to other farmers.



Household nutrition and health issues will be addressed, with a view of improving the nutritional status of target households and combatting the detrimental effects of poor nutrition.



## Project area

The project will work in four field sites – two in each country: Kamanyola and Mushinga, in the Ruzizi Plains of DR Congo; and Giheta in the Central highlands, and Cibitoke in the Ruzizi Plains of Burundi.

## Outputs

- The project will be functionally embedded within the Humidtropics program and fully integrated with other Humidtropics activities at the project sites, including research for development (R4D) platform interactions, to facilitate scaling of the project's research outputs.
- Farm-level productivity of crop-livestock systems will be increased in the project sites whilst optimising natural resource use efficiency and minimizing negative environmental externalities.
- Farming families, and particularly women and youth, will be actively engaged in profitable crop and livestock value chains for fresh and processed products in the project sites.
- Women and young people will have improved access to assets and decision-making in relation to crop-livestock system management, and the nutritional status of women and children will be increased in project sites.

Photo credits

Page 1: ILRI/Pye-Smith

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Page 2: IITA

## Contacts

Timothy Robinson  
ILRI, Kenya  
t.robinson@cgiar.org

Bernard Vanlauwe  
IITA, Kenya  
b.vanlauwe@cgiar.org

**ILRI**  
INTERNATIONAL  
LIVESTOCK RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE

**IITA**  
Research to Nourish Africa



RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Integrated Systems  
for the Humid  
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Investing in rural people

ilri.org  
*better lives through livestock*  
ILRI is a member of the CGIAR Consortium

Box 30709, Nairobi 00100, Kenya  
Phone: +254 20 422 3000  
Fax: +254 20 422 3001  
Email: ILRI-Kenya@cgiar.org

Box 5689, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Phone: +251 11 617 2000  
Fax: +251 11 617 2001  
Email: ILRI-Ethiopia@cgiar.org



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